

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
State Board Rm. 755
March 11, 2019
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lindalyn Kakadelis Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Tammi Sutton Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon – <i>Via Phone</i> Bruce Friend
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Danielle Allen, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant	<i>SBE</i> <i>Attorney General</i> Tiffany Lucas Stephanie Lloyd <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Ms. Sherry Reeves recused herself from discussion and vote regarding Ignite Innovation Academy – Pitt. Ms. Tammi Sutton recused herself from discussion and vote regarding KIPP Halifax. Mr. Bruce Friend recused himself from discussion and vote regarding Triumph Charter Academy and Ignite Innovation Academy – Pitt.

Motion: Approval of the February CSAB meeting minutes with revisions

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Approval of the March CSAB Agenda

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

KIPP HALIFAX RENEWAL DISCUSSION AND VOTE

- Ms. Shaunda Cooper, Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Consultant, explained that there are no other compliance issues other than the financial issue stemming from the late audit.
- A representative from KIPP explained the delay in receiving the audit stemming from the consolidation of six school audits.
- Ms. Leigh Ann Kerr spoke on behalf of the NC DPI Financial Business Services Division. Mr. Walker asked if there were any findings in the audit. Ms. Kerr stated there was in the consolidated report. She stated the finding is a material weakness finding. She stated a debt was failed to be reported in 2017 and cash was overstated for one KIPP school, but not KIPP Halifax. Mr. Walker asked if the issue with KIPP Halifax is resolved. She explained the school will not be on a financial status based on these issues. She explained this is the fourth year for a late audit submission.
- Mr. Quigley asked if we are in a position where we can't speak about KIPP school audits separately because they are now consolidated. Ms. Kerr stated the auditors have broken out information by school. She stated you can tell in the footnotes what parts applies to which schools. She explained there is now a federal requirement that the KIPP audits be combined/consolidated because they operate as a network of charter schools that have one charter holder.
- The CSAB discussed which renewal framework KIPP Halifax qualifies. Mr. Steven Walker stated the school was comparable to the LEA in the last three years. Ms. Cooper read the seven-year framework guidelines to the CSAB. Mr. Machado asked for clarification on the consolidated audit requirements. Ms. Kerr explained it is a federal requirement that auditors are required to follow.
- Ms. Turner asked why the last three years were all late. A KIPP representative stated the staff members that worked at that time are no longer with KIPP.

Motion: The CSAB recommends a five-year renewal term for KIPP Halifax.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Recused: Tammi Sutton

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

APPLICATION UPDATES

- Dr. Danielle Allen, OCS Consultant, gave an application update. She reviewed the application timeline and process. She explained that this is the last month of clarification interviews. She explained the clarification interview process which takes a total of thirty minutes. On February 16, 2019 the Office of Charter Schools notified six groups they would appear for clarification interviews and on March 4, 2019 rubrics were released to those applicants. One applicant has since withdrawn from the process. Dr. Allen explained clarification interview committee assignments. She continued to explain that on February 17, 2019 six schools were notified of their full interview. One applicant, Piedmont Career Academy, withdrew its application. Interview rubrics were released to applicants on March 4th and 5th.
- Mr. Quigley asked for the total number of approved schools at this point. Dr. Allen replied twelve schools. Ms. Gibbs asked if the State Board of Education (SBE) has approved those. Dr. Allen stated no, the SBE has only approved the three accelerated schools so far. The remaining schools will go to the SBE in a few months.
- Mr. Quigley asked for an update from OCS regarding the accelerated schools.

CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Triumph Charter Academy Full Interview

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Robeson County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was no LEA impact statement or due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated there are no special requests and the application was deemed complete.
- The Board Chair introduced herself as Dr. Tanya Head and she currently serves as an educational consultant. The remaining board members introduced themselves and explained which board committees they serve on as well as their professions.
- Mr. Quigley asked for a board member to speak about the ambitious enrollment plan. The board member spoke about the desire in the area for more choice. She stated that the board conducted surveys that show approximately 550 students that would be served by the charter school. She stated that the nearest charter school (Southeastern Academy) already has 45 students on the Kindergarten waitlist outside of the sibling preference applicants.
- The CSAB asked about the geography surrounding the school. The Triumph Charter Academy board stated the schools are about 18 miles from each other. The board members

stated that the other two charter schools in the county are limited in expansion because of their facilities.

- A board representative spoke about the trans-disciplinary approach to education. She stated that you take all content areas and build a framework. She stated students would have personalized learning paths and explained how students would use their own data. She stated there would be an ebb and flow of whole class instruction and individual instruction or small group settings. She stated the students would work on long-term problems that students may work on for an entire grading period. She spoke about collaborating with local community colleges and government entities.
- She continued that they are not selling the school on the curriculum or advertising as a STEM school.
- Mr. Quigley asked for the thirty second elevator speech that you would give a parent to try and get them to come to the school. A board member spoke about the native demographics in the community. She continued that the trans-disciplinary approach is the culturally responsive approach to native learners. She stated there will be a focus on the home and the family and the community.
- Ms. Reeves asked what the day to day would look like for a third grader. A board member spoke about personalized learning plans. She stated the teachers will need to be like a conductor working with many different musicians.
- Mr. Quigley asked for more information about the day to day in the classroom. Ms. Joy Hunt spoke about using hands on approach and application in the classroom, rather than simply acquisition of knowledge. Mr. Quigley asked for more schedule information. Dr. Head stated about 120 minutes in literacy. Mr. Quigley asked about phonics. Dr. Head stated they will get phonics every day about thirty minutes a day. Mr. Quigley expressed concern that EL curriculum is a very difficult program to teach and wondered how the teachers would be trained to do this well. Ms. Kakadelis asked about the fact that so many students will most likely come in below grade level and how will remediation take place.
- Dr. Head spoke about the plan to do 2-3 weeks of training in the summer for teachers. She stated the board knows it must find the right people. She stated the board believes it is doable.
- Mr. Quigley stated the professional development and the curriculum materials are covered well in the budget.
- Ms. Turner asked if there was a responsibility to verify that the non-profit actually has the money to fund the school as stated in the application. The president of Five Porches addressed the board. He stated they filed as a corporation in 2013 and work as a community development corporation. He spoke about the poverty in Robeson County and the need for development and assistance in the community. He spoke about how the corporation has provided meals and assistance to the homeless in the area. He stated that out of Five Porches

several other non-profits were born. He stated that one is a church in the county which is the fastest growing church in the county. He stated now it is time for Five Porches to begin working on improving education in the county. He stated that Five Porches are 100% committed to help the school become successful.

- Mr. Quigley asked about the lunch plan and transportation. Dr. Head stated that the nonprofit would provide lunch to those needed which they calculated around 30% of students. Ms. Turner is concerned that most of the population in the county is in poverty, so the 30% estimate seems very low.
- Mr. Quigley asked for more information about the Five Porches donation. The president of Five Porches stated they have committed to three million in donations for a five-year period to get the school up and running. He stated the transportation budget will be increased.
- Mr. Quigley stated he feels the board is outstanding in terms of experience and diversity. He stated the board is strong, but he has reservations about clarity in the plan. He stated he would feel better if it was starting off with lower numbers. He stated there was little clarity on the elevator pitch that would be given to parents.
- Mr. Walker echoed Mr. Quigley's comments. He stated he also recognizes the need in the area. He thinks the main issue will be getting the students in the door.
- Ms. Turner stated she has major concerns with the numbers and she senses a dissonance between who the school thinks they are serving and who lives in the area.
- Mr. Maimone asked for the teacher to address Ms. Turner's concern. She spoke about the community meetings and the surveys the board has received. Ms. Turner stated she doesn't hear the plan for getting students that are behind and remediating those students.
- Mr. Quigley stated he believes that the application could be a slam dunk in a year if they tighten up the plan for who they will serve and how they will serve them.
- Ms. Lynn Kroeger stated she would like to see more financial expertise on the board. She also stated it is troubling to rely so heavily on this outside support that may not be there as long as the board suggests.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she also has some concerns at this point.
- Mr. Hawkes stated he believes the CSAB is underestimating the strength of the board and that we need to be careful before we deny this opportunity to the students of Robeson County. Mr. Quigley stated it is the CSAB's job to look objectively at these applications.
- Ms. Gibbs suggested the school could consider coming back next year for acceleration. Ms. Kakadelis stated she wants more information on remediation. Mr. Maimone stated he does not have a vote here, but he is leaning toward Mr. Hawke's comment because he believes the

board is so strong they could make the revisions necessary to make it work. Mr. Walker agreed.

Motion: The CSAB moves Triumph Charter Academy to Ready to Open on a regular timeline.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Phyllis Gibbs

- Mr. Hawkes stated he has seen a lot of boards on his time on CSAB. He stated he believes in giving opportunity when you have a strong board.

Vote: Steven Walker, Phyllis Gibbs, Alan Hawkes, Heather Vuncannon.

Recused: Bruce Friend

Opposed: Cheryl Turner, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Alex Quigley, Lynn Kroeger, Sherry Reeves, Tammi Sutton.

Passed Failed

Motion: The CSAB does not move Triumph Charter Academy to Ready to Open status.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Cheryl Turner, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Alex Quigley, Lynn Kroeger, Sherry Reeves, Tammi Sutton.

Recused: Bruce Friend

Opposed: Steven Walker, Phyllis Gibbs, Alan Hawkes, Heather Vuncannon.

Passed Failed

- Dr. Allen stated that twenty-seven groups appeared for clarification interviews. She stated twenty-three were forwarded to full interview. Of those twenty-three, eighteen have come in for full interviews. Of the eighteen, twelve received recommendations to move into Ready to Open status.

Carolina Experimental School Full Interview

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was no LEA impact statement or due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings. She stated they are a repeat applicant, but the application was deemed incomplete last year. This year, the application is deemed complete. There was no third party assistance.
- Members of the board introduced themselves and their backgrounds.
- Mr. Walker asked the Board President, Wenyu Bai, to explain the school's program. Mr. Bai spoke at length about his belief that American students are behind whereas Chinese students

work hard to be academically successful. He also spoke about high stakes testing in China and his belief that testing in America encourages or allows fraud.

- Mr. Walker asked how promotion would look like at the proposed school. Mr. Bai stated that if you score a 1 or 2 on the EOG, you would receive a type of probation. Level 1 may be retention, but level 2 would maybe require summer remediation and retesting.
- Mr. Maimone asked how students are categorized in Chinese schools so the CSAB could understand the comparisons are being made between the Chinese and American systems. Mr. Bai explained that differentiation in American schools is more at the instructional level, whereas differentiation in Chinese schools is more at the assessment level.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the immersion component. Mr. Wai stated it is not an immersion school.
- Ms. Reeves stated she has some concerns about the grade span starting at 6-9th grades. She stated she has concerns about bringing in students that supposedly have all the issues that school board is suggesting and trying to change them after so much time already in traditional American schools. She also stated that the State Superintendent is really looking to decrease testing in the schools, but this school proposes more testing. She worries about parent buy-in with the rigor and testing in his proposed model.
- Mr. Friend stated he disagrees that testing equates to rigor. He stated there is nothing innovative in the charter. He stated this looks like a 1920s American education model. He also has questions about the teachers the school would recruit to implement this model.
- Mr. Walker's main concern is how to attract parents to a model such as this with the high stakes testing, rigor, and out of school work expectations.
- The board spoke about understanding the opposition they have encountered, but they need the Chinese model at one school to show the evidence that this model will work. Ms. Reeves asked what data the school board has that parents are interested in this school model. Mr. Wai stated they have about 173 surveys and most were interested. Mr. Friend asked how many were non-Chinese parents. Mr. Wai stated that data was not collected. Mr. Wai stated there are successful models of these charter schools in Arizona. Mr. Friend asked if the survey disposition went to demographics of the county or did you target friends and family of Chinese descent. Mr. Wai stated they could not do the demographics of the county.
- Mr. Walker asked Mr. Wai his thoughts on the chief goal of education. Another board member, who is a parent, stated the goal is to learn the skills necessary to be successful financially.
- Mr. Wai stated they plan to put the classics in the hands of each student. He spoke about how this would develop independent thinkers that would dare to challenge the status quo.

- Another board member addressed the CSAB about his experience in helping NC schools teach computer science and coding. He spoke about his wishes to work with Carolina Experimental School to do the same. He stated he has access to a STEM facility that could be used as the school facility.
- Ms. Kroeger stated she does not feel the application reflects much of what the board is stating. She stated the mission statement doesn't even reflect these ideas. She also expressed concerns about the budget. Mr. Friend echoed the sentiment that the application does not address some of the items brought up in discussion such as personalized learning.
- Ms. Kakadelis expressed concern with starting at 6th grade for a model such as the one proposed.
- Mr. Hawkes stated he hopes we give the school a chance, especially when enrollment starts at 200. He also expressed concern that it could be a school for the Chinese ex-patriot community.

Motion: The CSAB moves Carolina Experimental School forward for Ready to Open on a regular timeline.

Motion: Alan Hawkes

Second: Steven Walker

Vote: Alan Hawkes and Steven Walker.

Opposed: Bruce Friend, Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Tammi Sutton, Sherry Reeves, Phyllis Gibbs, Heather Vuncannon.

Passed

Failed

Motion: The CSAB does not move Carolina Experimental School forward for Ready to Open status.

Motion: Cheryl Turner

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Bruce Friend, Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Tammi Sutton, Sherry Reeves, Phyllis Gibbs, Heather Vuncannon.

Opposed: Alan Hawkes and Steven Walker.

Passed

Failed

2019 CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION PROPOSED CHANGES

- Dr. Allen spoke about 2019 charter school application proposed changes. She stated the Office of Charter Schools is working with Epicenter to get the new application platform ready. She spoke about the timeline changes previously approved. She spoke about adding requirements to the background check in order to ensure quality.

- Mr. Quigley asked if the board has any appetite to do some type of numerical scoring of applications. He voiced concerns about capacity in the Office of Charter Schools. He voiced concerns about the pass/fail system. The CSAB voiced concerns about the length of the timeline process and how schools are approved.
- The CSAB discussed the pros and cons of the pass/fail system and external evaluators. Mr. Maimone proposed the idea of strong, neutral, weak system of ratings. The CSAB spoke about the difference between reviewing applicants in the beginning of the process and reviewing applicants in the end of the process. Mr. Walker proposed seeing all clarification interviews first, and then see the passing applications for full interview. The CSAB spoke about have an easily accessible document, like a Google Doc, to put a quick statement or rating about the feeling on each applicant.
- Mr. Machado spoke about the need to try and get schools approved as soon as possible because there are schools that are having to delay because they don't have enough time to get the facility. The CSAB spoke about the possibility of giving applicants the choice of having a two-year RTO process rather than a one-year RTO process. Mr. Walker stated he believes that the vast majority of schools come into the process believing they can open in one year.
- Ms. Reeves stated it would be helpful if the clarifying materials submitted were submitted with all the materials the evaluators review. She continued that sometimes these changes are occurring very late in the process which makes it difficult to evaluate.
- Ms. Turner asked if the future application process could open at the same time the current application process is running. Mr. Machado stated that could be a possibility, but we would need to make sure internal processes and staffing could make that work. Ms. Reeves stated she likes the idea of shortening the time frame to get an application into the system.

The CSAB broke for a lunch break at 12:15pm and reconvened at 1:00pm.

CLARIFICATION INTERVIEWS

- Dr. Allen reminded the board of the time limits and process for clarification interviews.

Wake Preparatory Academy

- Dr. Allen stated that Wake Preparatory Academy is proposed to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is not a LEA impact statement, but a due diligence was completed. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant has no special requests. She stated

the applicant is a repeat application, but the applicant withdrew before clarification interviews last year. Dr. Allen stated the applicant has partnered with Charter One and no direct fees were provided.

- The Board Chair introduced herself and fellow board members did the same.
- Mr. Friend asked about the EMO Charter One and if they currently have a school in North Carolina. The Board Chair stated this would be the first. A representative from Charter One stated the only relationship with Ascend is that the school purchased their curriculum from Charter One.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she has concerns with the enrollment of K-10 and 1600 students in the first year. The Board Chair spoke about the demand in the area and the growth in the area. She stated they conducted a survey on Facebook and have 1323 student interest surveys. She stated some of the schools in Wake County are being capped. She stated parents showed interest in having their students in one school and on one schedule.
- Mr. Friend asked about Charter One because there is little information on the company's website. The Chief Financial Officer for Charter One spoke on this issue. He stated the company is an LLC with four partners. He stated the goal is to grow high-performing charter school in areas with demand. Mr. Friend asked about the controversy surrounding Charter One. The Chief Financial Officer stated it is in good standing with every governing organization. Mr. Friend asked for clarity if the developer also is a part owner in Charter One. The board stated yes.
- Ms. Reeves asked if Charter One has opened any K-12 schools. A Charter One representative clarified that they have opened K-12 schools, but the campuses are split between K-7 and 8-12.
- Ms. Sutton asked how individualized education is going to be emphasized with 1600 students. The Board Chair stated it will be grade and class based. Ms. Reeves asked about project-based learning.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she would like to hear more from the applicant.

Motion: Committee motion to allow Wake Preparatory Academy continue to full interview.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Phyllis Gibbs

Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote

Passed

Failed

- Mr. Friend stated he has major concerns about the numbers for a new school. He continued particularly for a school in an area with many charter schools. He also wants to flesh out the relationship between the EMO and developer.

Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow Wake Preparatory Academy continue to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Jordan Lake Academy

- Dr. Allen stated that Jordan Lake Academy is proposed to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is not a LEA impact statement or a due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant has no special requests. She stated the applicant is a repeat application but did not move forward to a full interview last year. The applicant did not receive third party assistance and the application was deemed complete.
- Ms. Hawke introduced herself as a board member. A board representative stated several board members are traveling and therefore unable to attend. A board representative stated that the school is not involved with Charter One in any form, but some board members used to work for Charter One.
- A board representative spoke about the need for a charter school in their proposed location. He stated that 1400 kids based on the data would be reasonable, but maybe not ideal.
- Ms. Vuncannon wanted clarity about the purpose of the school. A board representative stated that they are trying to build a community. He stated their proposed school would be small in comparison to others in the area. He stated the school wants to represent the community. He stated the board believes it would be worthwhile to offer that opportunity to families in the area. Ms. Vuncannon asked if there is a weighted lottery. A board representative stated they wanted to do first come first serve but will do a lottery if necessary. The CSAB stated the law is clear that lotteries are required if need outweighs space. A board representative stated they would do whatever is required.
- Mr. Walker stated he had concern about the budget. He stated the 1M plus budget surplus seems like leaving a lot of money on the table that could be used to serve students.
- Ms. Vuncannon stated the health insurance budget seems very low.

- A board representative stated it should be \$700 per month which would take up a lot of the surplus in the budget. He stated that the school hopes that a lot of up-front purchases would be rolled into the building lease costs.
- Ms. Reeves asked why they have changed location from Chatham to Wake County from last year's application. A board representative stated the location is right on the border and they have found a piece of land in Wake County which prompted the change.

Motion: Committee motion to not allow Jordan Lake Academy to continue to full interview.

Motion: Lynn Kroeger

Second: Heather Vuncannon

Vote: Steven Walker, Heather Vuncannon, Lynn Kroeger, Cheryl Turner.

Opposed: Alan Hawkes.

Passed **Failed**

Motion: Full CSAB motion to not allow Jordan Lake Academy continue to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Steven Walker, Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Tammi Sutton, Sherry Reeves.

Opposed: Alan Hawkes, Bruce Friend, Phyllis Gibbs.

Passed **Failed**

CSP GRANT UPDATE

- Mr. Jay Whalen spoke about the CSP Grant. He explained the number of letters of intent received thus far and those eligible. He stated there are seven planned trainings around the state. He stated the team hopes to bring recommendations on applications before the CSAB at its May meeting. He explained which grants the eligible applicants are specifically applying for.

IGNITE INNOVATION ACADEMY – PITT

- Mr. Bruce Friend has recused himself from discussion and vote on this matter. Ms. Sherry Reeves has recused herself from discussion and vote on this matter.
- Mr. McCarthy introduced the school and himself as school leader. Members of the board introduced themselves.
- Mr. McCarthy stated the board and school has decided to focus on the issues brought up in the November 2018 presentation before the CSAB. Mr. McCarthy started by explaining Academic Improvement Efforts. He spoke about the use of iReady for remediation and a

data-driven remediation block. He spoke about data from this year's DIBELS/TRC, iReady Reading and Math, and NC Check-ins Reading and Math.

- Mr. McCarthy spoke about enrollment trends and marketing efforts. He explained changes that have been made to the board. He continued by speaking to financial health improvement at the school.
- Ms. Turner stated she is impressed that the school has really taken the previous feedback to heart and is working to make progress.
- The Board Chair spoke about the differences she has seen at the school level over the last few years. She stated she sees this especially in the school's use of data and better cohesion and communication at the school level.
- Mr. Machado asked about enrollment for next year. Mr. McCarthy stated they did not need a lottery but are looking to be in the 275 and 300 range. He stated there has been an 85% return of intent forms.
- Mr. Maimone asked what Mr. McCarthy expects to see at the end of this year. Mr. McCarthy states he believes they will meet growth and increase proficiency.

PAUL R. BROWN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

- Dr. Purdie addressed the CSAB as the recently elected Board President. He explained his background in the military and in education. He stated the school is adamantly trying to fix their shortcomings.
- Dr. Purdie explained the board did a lot of research on the alternative status suggestion and realized they did not meet the criteria outlined in those policies. Dr. Purdie stated they are working with external consultants Dr. Miller and Dr. Bradshaw.
- He stated they are working on accountability and asking to allow the school to work with the students to meet requirements over the next three years.
- Mr. Quigley stated he believes the board is correct in not qualifying for alternative accountability status.
- Mr. Quigley asked for clarification about the administrative roles.
- Mr. Carl Lloyd, Commandant of Cadets, presented to the CSAB. He stated the school was his idea which was to provide a setting to allow students without means to get back on track. He spoke about whether the school qualified for alternative accountability status. He stated they do not qualify although they take chances on students that have dropped out or have been in trouble in their LEAs.

- He stated the school needed to figure out what they needed to do to improve and as a result hired outside consultants. Mr. Lloyd stated the consultants came up with a plan for improvement. He spoke about the school's plan for academic improvement.
- Mr. Quigley asked for current enrollment. Mr. Lloyd stated 155.
- Mr. Lloyd spoke about the school's receipt of an Ellis Grant that allows for additional academic services, as well as dinner and transportation for cadets.
- Mr. Lloyd spoke about teacher training and principal training that is taking place. He spoke about students taking assessments more seriously, teacher improvement and collaboration, and teacher recognition.
- Mr. Lloyd spoke about compliance. He stated all Performance Framework documents have been submitted on time. He spoke about the new Board Chair.
- Mr. Lloyd spoke about community involvement. He stated the organization now owns the facility and land. He spoke about improvements to the facility and to cadet life.
- Ms. Reeves asked how many administrators are at the school. Mr. Lloyd stated there is a headmaster, Commandant, and Academic Coach. Ms. Reeves asked how many teachers. Mr. Lloyd stated 21, some of which are part-time.
- Mr. Quigley stated he is seeing some real evidence of getting good people involved and putting moves in play in order to move the needle instructionally. Mr. Quigley stated he thinks the clarity and knowing what at stake is important. Mr. Quigley stated it seems like the school needs to make sure it is getting things in on time and better at communicating with DPI. Mr. Lloyd stated they are now assigning different personnel to each submission. Mr. Quigley gave the school advice on cultivating communication relationships with DPI staff.
- Mr. Walker gave the school advice about getting the students excited about academics as they are about the extracurriculars at the school. He stated he feels much better now as opposed to the school's last presentation.
- Mr. McKoy spoke about changing the mindset of the students to understand there is more to life than what they may see in their small community.
- Mr. Quigley stated the school appears to have a strong culture, but really needs to drive academic improvement. Mr. Quigley also stated that the new Headmaster must take responsibility for improving communication and responsiveness with DPI.
- Ms. Turner stated the school has done a great job in school culture and extra opportunities for the students, but they must make academic improvement a priority.
- Ms. Leigh Ann Kerr, NC DPI Financial Business Services, stated there are no financial concerns at this time.

Motion: The CSAB moves into closed session to discuss attorney client privileged matters and to adjourn upon leaving closed session.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

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9:00 am**

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Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Danielle Allen, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant	<i>SBE</i> <i>Attorney General</i> Stephanie Lloyd <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mr. Bruce Friend recused himself from discussion and voting on the CFA Pender application.
- Ms. Cheryl Turner recused herself from discussion and voting on the NC Connections Academy amendment request.

APPLICATION UPDATES

- Dr. Danielle Allen, OCS Consultant, gave an application update. She reviewed the interview process and time limits.

CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Griffin Leadership Academy

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Greene County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was an LEA impact statement and a due diligence report for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated there are no special requests and the application was deemed complete. The applicant received assistance from Leaders Building Leaders and NC Charter Accelerator and paid a fee of \$1,000.00.
- Mr. Josh Prescott introduced himself as the Board Chair. Mr. Steve Beckett introduced himself as a board member. Ms. Nancy Henderson introduced herself as a board member and all remaining board members introduced themselves.
- Mr. Friend asked about the board members that are out of state. A board representative stated there will only be one member out of state.
- Ms. Reeves asked why the school chose Greene County. Mr. Prescott stated he lives in Goldsboro and the need is great in Greene County. He stated they conducted surveys that showed an interest from parents in the county.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the school's literacy plan. A board member stated they will follow NC Standards and Core Knowledge.
- Mr. Walker asked how this board would make sure that the trouble Wayne Academy experienced years ago doesn't happen here. Mr. Todd Forgette, a former Wayne Academy staff member, and current Griffin Leadership Academy board member, stated that he wasn't privy to a lot of that information because it took place at the board level but that he learned the importance of having a board that is clear on responsibilities and governance.
- Mr. Quigley asked what will happen when several board members will move off the board and into the school. Mr. Prescott stated that they are currently searching for new members and hope to have a seven-member board.
- A board representative spoke about the curriculum plan including Walk to Read and March to Math. Ms. Reeves asked about the special needs students. Mr. Forgette spoke about using the MTSS framework and how the EC team will function. Ms. Reeves asked if there will be an AIG teacher. Mr. Forgette stated AIG will be embedded in the MTSS framework and into

the direct instruction. Ms. Reeves asked if the instruction will be homogenously grouped. Mr. Forgette stated yes.

- Mr. Quigley asked about the curriculum. Mr. Forgette spoke about Reading Mastery and Core Knowledge.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the roles for board members. Mr. Forgette stated he would be the Chief Academic Officer. Mr. Prescott stated he would apply for Chief Executive Officer.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the school's marketing plan. Mr. Prescott stated the board would have feet on the ground at festivals, events, social media, radio, etc.
- The CSAB questioned the applicants on the budget including meal costs and transportation costs.
- Mr. Friend asked if the board has a sense of the percentage of the students that would come from Greene County. Mr. Forgette stated he believes about 50% from Greene County and the other 50% split between Lenore County and Wayne County. Mr. Friend stated that will be about 10% of the Greene County student population. Mr. Forgette stated he believes that is correct.
- Ms. Reeves expressed concerns about the parent interest and specifics about what grade levels the interested families would represent. Mr. Forgette stated they don't have that exact data.
- Ms. Turner asked about the costs for professional development. Ms. Turner and Ms. Reeves noted those costs are high in the submitted budget. Ms. Turner asked if Mr. Forgette would provide that development free of charge because he works for the Ronnis Systems company. Mr. Forgette stated that if the need was there, Ronnis Systems would present a proposal for the board's consideration.
- Mr. Friend asked about the facility. He stated the cost of the least payment doubles in year two and then continues to grow and asked for clarification regarding those payments. Mr. Forgette stated those numbers are in anticipation of growth. Mr. Beckett spoke about facility options the board has considered.
- Mr. Quigley stated he believes that what this school is trying to do is a significant challenge. He stated there are too many questions in this application to support it. He expressed concern about potential contracting of services. He stated the application is OK, but to do the work they are going to engage in they would need an excellent application. He also expressed concern about the fact the board is only five members and several are planning to leave the board to work with at the school. He stated the applicant needs to have a solid board on hand when those members drop off the board. He stated for those reasons, he will not be supporting the application.

- Ms. Reeves expressed concerns about the connection to the community. Ms. Kakadelis also expressed concerns about the board. She would like to see members from Greene County.
- Ms. Turner expressed her concerns about the board as well. Mr. Prescott stated he understands the concerns, but they have been very intentional about bringing people on the board slowly.
- Mr. Friend stated he believes the board is a concern. Mr. Walker stated the problem is that right now we are essentially only interviewing a two-person board.

Motion: The CSAB does not move Griffin Leadership Academy to Ready to Open status.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Cheryl Turner

- Mr. Maimone told the applicant to consider coming back next year with a solid board rooted in the community, as well as more data about parent interest.
- Mr. Hawkes stated he would oppose this motion.

Vote: Cheryl Turner, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Alex Quigley, Lynn Kroeger, Sherry Reeves, Tammi Sutton, Bruce Friend, Steven Walker, Phyllis Gibbs.

Opposed: Alan Hawkes.

Passed Failed

Leadership Academy of Wayne

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Wayne County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was not an LEA impact statement, but there was a due diligence report for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated there are no special requests, the applicant is not a repeat applicant, and the application was deemed complete. The applicant did not receive third-party assistance.
- Dr. Benton introduced herself as Secretary of the board. Mr. Forgette introduced himself as Treasurer of the board. Ms. James introduced herself as a teacher and a board member. Dr. Benton introduced himself as the founding Board Chair.
- Ms. Turner expressed concerns about the enrollment projections. She stated 16% of Wayne County LEA is substantial.
- Mr. Quigley asked if there are any more board members. Dr. Benton stated there is one that was unable to be here.

- Ms. Reeves asked if any board members live in Wayne County. Dr. Benton stated there are two members that live there and stated he is a lifetime Wayne County resident but recently moved.
- Mr. Walker asked for clarity on the board member interests in academic business such as Academic Plus and Ronnis Systems. Dr. Benton stated that Academic Plus only does some consulting. He stated Ronnis Systems is a good corporation from what he understands, and he stated that the board would also receive 2-3 bids for services and go with the best proposal.
- Mr. Walker asked what Dr. Benton learned from Wayne Prep. Dr. Benton stated be aware of wolves in sheep's clothing.
- Dr. Benton spoke about possible contractors for the facility. He stated nothing has been formally established. He stated the financing would take place with either Highmark or GGP.
- Mr. Quigley asked if Dr. Benton would be the principal. Dr. Benton stated yes.
- Mr. Quigley stated the enrollment plan is very aggressive. Dr. Benton stated there was a mistake in the application and it would actually be 6% of Wayne County LEA ADM. Dr. Benton spoke about wanting to locate in the southern end of Wayne County where there is no school choice. Dr. Benton stated the board is confident that many parents would consider a choice that is closer to them. Dr. Benton spoke about the importance of marketing and the board's plans to market the school.
- Mr. Quigley asked for clarity on the targeted population. Dr. Benton stated there is a large free and reduced lunch population in the county. Dr. Benton stated she estimates 70-95% free and reduced lunch. Mr. Quigley stated the application doesn't reflect that number. Ms. Reeves agreed. Mr. Quigley stated there is not enough budgeted for meals and nothing budgeted for transportation. Dr. Benton explained the experience she had running afterschool programs where parents provided transportation. Dr. Benton stated they will develop a plan for transportation if needed. She explained possibilities with local transportation providers. Mr. Quigley stated that there seems to be a disconnect between estimating so many free and reduced lunch children and not having a transportation plan.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the curriculum budget. Mr. Forgette spoke about the curriculum costs associated with getting the curriculum programs established.
- Mr. Quigley asked for clarity on the mission statement. Dr. Benton spoke about legacy and the community needs. She spoke about reading and math proficiency. She stated our goal is that students are able to move to the next level of schooling after leaving at 8th grade. She stated we are hoping and believing that they will be able to make a difference in their community.
- Ms. Sutton asked what goals are being used to measure leadership. Dr. Benton stated goals will be added as they progress. She stated academic scores will be a good indicator because if a student is responsible for him or herself, it impacts others in a positive way.

- Ms. Turner asked if Dr. Benton would stay on the board after the school is up is running. Dr. Benton stated they would abide with any conflict of interest requirements.
- Mr. Quigley stated it seems like we are running into the same problem with a board that will decrease upon the opening of the school. Mr. Quigley asked for Dr. Benton, potential Principal, to describe a day in the life of a student. Dr. Benton stated the idea of the school would be to open at 8AM and for students to go into homeroom, then leadership training, then reading and math, and direct instruction. Dr. Benton spoke about using the Covey leadership model.
- Mr. Quigley asked what the bulk of the staff development budget would comprise. Dr. Benton stated he would expect most of it to go to teacher development. Dr. Benton stated the core would go toward Direct Instruction development.
- Ms. Reeves stated she anticipates a high Hispanic population in this area. She asked how the school will meet the needs of the population. Dr. Benton stated usually it is the parents that have the problem with English and not the students. Dr. Benton stated they would provide resources as needed for those students and parents.
- Mr. Friend stated the enrollment numbers are quite large for a rural area. Mr. Friend asked if they have had any community meetings or surveys, other than Facebook interest. Dr. Benton stated meetings had low turn-out, but he spoke with county commissioners that were supportive of the school because the traditional public schools are overcrowded.
- Mr. Maimone stated his biggest concerns are the numbers and community interest.

Motion: The CSAB does not move Leadership Academy of Wayne to Ready to Open status.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

- Dr. Benton asked the board to reconsider their concerns and expressed disagreement with some of the external evaluators.
- Mr. Quigley stated that the external evaluator comments are not bearing on his concerns right now. Mr. Quigley stated that he is making an evaluation based on the application in front of him. Mr. Friend stated he feels the same and that the CSAB must vote on the application in front of the board.
- Mr. Hawkes stated that the CSAB is holding these applications to high standards that are off the mark. Mr. Friend stated he believes the schools he has been a part of could meet this standard. He stated that when he came before the CSAB, he had actual parent evidence of interest. He continued that the board he brought before the CSAB was the board that the SBE was giving the charter to.

- Mr. Quigley stated the standard is high and the process has become more rigorous as more schools have opened and that is natural. He continued that there is only one person on the board that doesn't have a potential exit opportunity off the board.

Vote: Cheryl Turner, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Alex Quigley, Lynn Kroeger, Sherry Reeves, Tammi Sutton, Bruce Friend.

Opposed: Alan Hawkes, Phyllis Gibbs, Steven Walker.

Passed

Failed

CE Academy

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was not an LEA impact statement or a due diligence report for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated there are no special requests and the application was deemed complete. The applicant did previously receive a clarification interview but was not forwarded to the full interview state. The applicant did not receive third party assistance.
- Ms. Heli Chu introduced herself as Board Chair. Board members and advisors introduced themselves.
- Mr. Walker stated the application has been strengthened from the previous year. Mr. Walker stated the goals are a bit vague and more about what the applicant was expecting to see rather than what the applicant aims to achieve. Mr. Walker asked for more information about the academic goals.
- A board member stated that an academic goal was to obtain 75% proficiency on the EOG the first year and then increase the goal each year.
- Ms. Turner asked about the enrollment goals for a very mission specific school. Ms. Turner wants more information about the enrollment projections. Mr. Roberts spoke about the growth and demand in the area. He stated there would be a lot of digital marketing and direct mailers. He spoke about how the board has analyzed the need including analyzing each zip code specifically to determine the number of eligible students. Ms. Reeves expressed concern about the previous survey which showed only about 63 interested parents. Ms. Reeves asked which population the board is targeting. Mr. Roberts stated the school is opened to anyone and would target families that are interested in a bilingual and multicultural experience.
- Ms. Reeves asked if the board is concerned with finding staffing that could teach in bilingual classrooms. A board representative spoke about how classes will be divided between English and Mandarin instruction. She stated 19 teachers would be hired and they are aware of about 200 teachers in the area that can teach Mandarin. Ms. Reeves asked if they are certified. The board member responded some of them and the school would assist with getting them certified. Ms. Reeves asked how new older students, such as 4th graders, would get caught up in Mandarin. The board member stated they will have a free afterschool program. Ms. Sutton asked how many bilingual teachers they will need when the school is full grown. The board

member stated they will recruit teachers in China if needed. Another board member spoke about how the school will get older students caught up. Ms. Reeves asked if the board realizes NC requires at least 50% certified teachers. A board member stated yes.

- Ms. Kroeger asked why the enrollment projections have increased from last year's application. Mr. Roberts stated they may have not shown the interest in tangible evidence, but they know from their day to day lives that the demand is there.
- Mr. Hawkes asked if the board has reached out to East Voyager Academy which is an immersion school in Mecklenburg. Mr. Roberts stated they haven't reached out to the school but did review the application in the early phases.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the budget accounts for expenses associated with hiring teachers from abroad. A board member stated no. She continued that the board expects to hire as many local teachers as possible.
- Mr. Hawkes asked if the school would be prepared to revise the budget if the enrollment numbers didn't pan out. Mr. Roberts stated yes. Mr. Hawkes asked if they have support from business and academic organizations. Mr. Roberts stated yes.
- Mr. Maimone asked about the supports that will be in place daily for the students struggling to learn either English or Mandarin. A board member stated that students would be grouped and instruction differentiated. Mr. Maimone asked if they will get the needed support during the school day as opposed to after school. A board member stated most students can get the needed instruction in the school day, but some students may need extra support after school.
- Ms. Reeves asked for the standards used in the Chinese immersion school at which the board member teaches. The board member stated NC Standards and Chinese language standards.
- Mr. Quigley asked about facility plans. Mr. Cheng stated they plan to build a facility with a developer that would then lease the building back to the school. He stated the second option is to lease a facility from a local church.
- Mr. Quigley stated they have budgeted for transportation. Mr. Quigley stated the professional development budget seems low. The Board Chair stated they are looking for additional funding for professional development if needed. She stated they have a surplus if needed.
- Ms. Reeves stated they will need to revise the daily schedule to meet the minimum requirements of the state.
- Mr. Quigley stated he is excited to see something different such as a language immersion school, but he has reservations about the ramp up in enrollment.
- Mr. Maimone stated he is very impressed with this board and he believes the area will provide the demand. Mr. Maimone stated he believes they can get 400 students. Mr. Walker stated he believes they can get at least 300 students. Mr. Friend stated the numbers will be

obtainable, even if difficult. He stated he thinks the school is making the right decision in starting with the lower grades.

- Ms. Turner stated if the budget is flexible, they will be able to survive with lower enrollment and adjust. Mr. Quigley stated he does not see a lot of flexibility in the budget.
- Ms. Turner stated that they need to adjust the calendar to have more vacation days around Thanksgiving and they would need to have Good Friday as a holiday.

Motion: The CSAB moves CE Academy to Ready to Open status on a regular timeline.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

- Mr. Quigley stated he is leaning toward supporting this because it is a unique application and an innovative program. He just really encourages the school to consider revising the enrollment figures to a lower number and starting with fewer grades. Ms. Kakadelis encouraged the board to talk to the leadership from East Voyager Academy. Ms. Turner stated she agrees and to talk to that school about the problems they had with marketing to families.
- Mr. Quigley praised the board for a clear mission statement.

Vote: Cheryl Turner, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Alex Quigley, Lynn Kroeger, Sherry Reeves, Tammi Sutton, Bruce Friend, Alan Hawkes, Steven Walker.

Opposed: Phyllis Gibbs.

Passed

Failed

The CSAB broke for a lunch break at 12:15pm and reconvened at 1:00pm.

AMENDMENT REQUEST: ANSON CHARTER ACADEMY

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, introduced the school's amendment request for a second one-year delay. Ms. Baquero stated the school was originally scheduled to open in August 2018 and was later granted a one-year delay. She explained the reasons stated by the board for the first delay. Ms. Baquero stated the board now requests for a second one-year delay.
- Dr. Kebbler Williams stated this board is completely new with the longest serving member having started serving in October 2018. She stated issues with this board began last May Ready to Open evidences (RTO) were to be submitted as preparation to open. She explained how RTO evidences have been consistently submitted late or not submitted at all.
- Dr. Williams explained the communication the board received from the Office of Charter Schools regarding the required RTO evidences as well as Epicenter training opportunities. She confirmed that this board has been reconstituted twice.

- Mr. Quigley stated this issue is very clear. He continued that this is not the board to which the charter was granted.
- Mr. Sylvester Bennett, a board member, addressed the CSAB. Mr. Walker asked how long he has been on the board. Mr. Bennett stated since December, but he has been involved with the board for much longer. Mr. Walker asked what the school has accomplished since receiving the charter. Mr. Bennett stated they have had trouble with leadership since Goodall Consulting left. Mr. Bennett stated the board is strong and is trying to pull it together.
- Mr. Walker hopes that the board relinquish its charter before this goes before the State Board of Education.

Motion: The CSAB moves that the SBE revoke the charter of Anson Charter Academy.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

AMENDMENT REQUEST: NC CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

- Ms. Cheryl Turner recused herself from discussion and voting on the matter.
- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, introduced the school’s amendment request to terminate its relationship with its management company Pearson OBL (“Pearson”), formerly Connections Education. She explained the school currently enrolls approximately 2444 students.
- Dr. Nathan Currie, NC Connections Academy Superintendent, addressed the CSAB and explained that during this transition the mission will remain the same. Dr. Currie explained the services that the school took in-house in July 2017 including accreditation, school policies, handbooks, and insurance. He stated the purpose of transitioning some of those services was to bring personalization to students and financial responsiveness of the operation. He stated with the initial transition of services the school was able to provide teacher compensation improvements and device improvements to students. Dr. Currie stated a key piece of running independently would be financial responsiveness.
- Mr. Walker wondered what options the CSAB has in this issue considering the unique situation of this legislatively mandated pilot program.
- Mr. Eric Snider, SBE Attorney, stated legal questions from the CSAB are best handled in closed session.
- Mr. Walker asked if Pearson owns any assets. Dr. Currie stated not that he is aware of, but he would refer to the Pearson representative for that question. Mr. J.W. Ragley, a representative from Pearson, stated there are assets that would need to be returned such as the laptops, textbooks, and teacher manuals.

- Mr. Friend stated he wants to hear from the NC Connections Academy Board why they feel this separation is necessary. Mr. Friend asked how the school can ensure they maintain or have better services without Pearson.
- Ms. Bridget Phifer, NC Connections Academy Board Chair, spoke about her history on the board. Ms. Phifer spoke about her child's experience at the school. She stated the first problem she noticed regarding Pearson's services was that the curriculum was not aligned to state standards. She stated the board kept asking Pearson for changes to the platform and to the curriculum. She stated they had curriculum audits from outside and inside the organization. She stated Pearson was not making changes, so the board decided to start bringing more services in-house to free up money and provide what the students needed. She stated that bringing services in-house they could free up money. She stated this transition would allow NC Connections Academy to have better curriculum, provide better pay to teachers, and better services and equipment to students. She stated they found a way to give every student a laptop. She stated they saw the same problems in multiple Connections schools. She stated the board went and talked to other schools about these issues. Ms. Phifer stated NC Connections Academy often had no idea where the money provided to Pearson was going in terms of services. She stated they had no idea where the SPED money was going or where the money was going at all. She stated it would take weeks to get financial questions answered by Pearson. She continued that she would look at the financial documents and they didn't make sense.
- Mr. Friend stated he hears frustration with the curriculum, but a service like Pearson provides much more than curriculum. He asked if he is correct in hearing the board say that they can provide the same services at a higher level of quality and at lower cost. Dr. Currie stated yes, and they estimate they will save about 48-50% in costs. He spoke about a school in Pennsylvania that was able to do a similar transition. Mr. Friend asked if it was a state-wide virtual school. Dr. Currie stated yes. He stated that NC Connections Academy has visited other schools that have gone independent successfully.
- Mr. Friend asked how many board members have been on the board since the inception of the school. Dr. Currie stated that Ms. Phifer has been on the board since the beginning, and the other members are not founding board members. Mr. Friend asked if they are here today. Dr. Currie stated no, but they are listening online. Ms. Phifer spoke about the board member backgrounds and stated the board has been working very hard.
- Mr. Maimone expressed concern that the board is having long meetings, but very little voting or action on matters. Ms. Phifer stated there has been a lot of discussion. Mr. Maimone asked if the board has been voting on the new vendors and reflecting that in the minutes. Ms. Phifer stated yes.
- Mr. Quigley stated he believes this is too much information to make a decision on at this meeting. Ms. Phifer stated the time is of the essence for enrollment and planning purposes. Mr. Quigley stated the CSAB needs to act with due diligence and adequate information. Ms. Phifer stated they attempted to negotiate an agreement with Pearson, but that did not work

out. Mr. Quigley stated he understands that, but their disagreement is not the CSAB's problem to solve. Mr. Walker asked if there is pending litigation. Ms. Phifer stated yes.

- Mr. J.W. Rankley, from Pearson, addressed the CSAB. He stated the NC Virtual Public School in 2015 viewed and approved every course from NC Connections Academy and found it to be aligned and rigorous. He stated the claim that the curriculum is misaligned does not match the facts. He stated Pearson serves 70,000 students. He stated other schools have not had issues regarding where the money is being spent. He continued that they are happy to, and have spent hours, explaining that to NC Connections Academy. He stated it is Pearson's position that the original contract with NC Connections Academy was only four years. He stated the litigation is asking a judge to make that determination.
- Mr. Walker wondered what the CSAB could really do because the board can't force a party to enter a contract.
- Ms. Donna Rascoe, attorney for NC Connections Academy, stated that her position is that the contract does not have an explicit end date. Mr. Walker asked if the school has a new charter since the legislative extension of the pilot. Ms. Rascoe stated the legislation simply struck through four and stated eight years, so her client still has the original charter referenced in the legislation. She continued that her client received a letter from the Office of Charter Schools acknowledging the legislation and stating that the school was no longer in the renewal process. She stated the parties are clearly in a position where the preference is not to move forward together.
- Mr. Walker stated that NC Connections Academy clearly wants to terminate the relationship. He asked what Pearson wants. Mr. John Branch, attorney for Pearson, stated that Pearson wants a declaratory judgment that the current contract ends on June 30, 2019 and that NC Connections Academy accepts the proposal to go back to the original contract with Pearson.
- Mr. Maimone asked if the offer from Pearson includes a \$500,000 grant. Mr. Ragley stated yes.
- Mr. Maimone asked why the proposal with Pearson that includes a \$500,000 grant is not a good deal for NC Connections Academy. Ms. Phifer stated because to go independent, NC Connections Academy frees up five million dollars. Ms. Phifer stated they would allocate three million of that for teacher compensation and freeing up a two million dollar fund balance.
- Ms. Rascoe explained that the new proposal from Pearson has some major differences from the original agreement, including complete control over employment. She stated that is completely different from the original agreement. She stated she would disagree that the proposal brings the school back to the agreement that existed at the time at the original charter.

Motion: The CSAB moves that the CSAB move into closed session to discuss attorney client privileged matters at 2pm.

Motion: Steven Walker
Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis
Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

- Mr. Walker stated he understands time is of the essence, but there are 2400 plus students involved in this matter. Mr. Walker stated this is a private dispute that needs to be worked out between the parties and the CSAB needs time to review the issues and determine the next course of action.

Motion: The CSAB moves the matter is tabled until next month’s CSAB meeting and that all members of the NC Connections Academy board, as well as representatives from Pearson, are here in person.

Motion: Steven Walker
Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis
Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

CLARIFICATION INTERVIEWS

- Dr. Allen reminded the board of the time limits and process for clarification interviews.

CFA Pender

- Dr. Allen stated that CFA Pender is proposed to locate in Pender County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school’s proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is not a LEA impact statement, nor was a due diligence report completed. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant has no special requests. She stated the applicant is not a repeat applicant. The applicant received third party assistance from Leaders Building Leaders and no direct fees were provided.
- Mr. Mark Benson introduced himself as Board Chair. He spoke about his experience in law enforcement and his understanding the importance of education. The remaining board members introduced themselves and spoke about their backgrounds and interest in serving students in Pender County. Mr. Gregg Sindors introduced himself as the CMO representative for CFA. He stated this board has applied for the NC Access Grant and will include a weighted lottery.
- Mr. Quigley asked about any relationship with Coastal Preparatory Academy. A board member stated there is no relationship between the two schools.

- Mr. Benson spoke about the geography of Pender County and the rural nature of the county once you get away from the coast. Mr. Benson stated the central area of the county is along I-40 and would be convenient to many areas.

Motion: Committee motion to allow CFA Pender to continue to full interview.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote

Passed Failed

Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow CFA Pender to continue to full interview.

Motion: Alex Quigley

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

Alamance Community School

- Dr. Allen stated that Alamance Community School is proposed to locate in Alamance County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school’s proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is not a LEA impact statement, nor was a due diligence report completed. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant has no special requests. She stated the applicant is not a repeat applicant. The applicant received third party assistance from Charter Success Partners and no direct fees were provided.
- Ms. Painter introduced herself as the Board Vice Chair. She explained her experience as a school administrator and 28 years in education. She explained the Board Chair was unable to attend because she recently gave birth.
- Mr. Walker stated he failed the finance section because there was a large amount in revenue marked as “other funds” and no explanation. Ms. Painter stated that the board feels those types of funds can be raised through fundraising, after school events, etc. Another board member spoke about raising funds through programs such as federal grant programs. He stated they would submit a revised budget, if given the opportunity, that removes those other funds. He stated the Assistant Principal position and Teacher Assistant positions would be eliminated if those funds are not available.
- Ms. Painter stated that they have elected to enroll in the Teachers Retirement System to attract teachers with experience that are already enrolled in the system.

Motion: Committee motion to allow Alamance Community School to continue to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker
Second: Lynn Kroeger
Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote
 Passed **Failed**

Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow Alamance Community School to continue to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker
Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis
Vote: Unanimous
 Passed **Failed**

LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

KIPP Charlotte

- Ms. Anokhi Saraiya introduced herself as Head of School for KIPP Charlotte. She spoke about the mission of the school, the board, and school leadership.
- Ms. Saraiya reviewed the academic data from last year's EOG results. She explained the goals for this year's EOGs. She stated the school is using the NC Check-ins and reviewed the data showing results from the previous two Check-ins.
- Ms. Saraiya reviewed the Math IA2 Results which show the school is struggling with the math standards.
- She continued by explaining key investments KIPP Charlotte has made in staff. She also explained key academic and curricular shifts. She explained the school is implementing Common Core aligned curriculum in grades K-8. She explained there is common planning time for all teachers and they participate in content team meetings weekly. She stated the teachers receive daily observations and feedback meetings. She continued to explain that there is increased ELA and Math instructional time and intervention blocks.
- Ms. Saraiya spoke about the progress the school is making on its School Improvement Plan. She explained the next steps the school will take to make academic progress.
- Mr. Walker asked when they are up for renewal. Ms. Baquero stated she believes 2027. Mr. Walker stated he appreciated the presentation being grounded in reality with a laid out plan.
- Ms. Saraiya and the CSAB spoke about the difficulties in finding quality math instructors.

Z.E.C.A. School of Arts and Technology

- Ms. Howard, CEO, introduced herself and the board members and staff members accompanying her.
- She spoke about the changes the school has made since coming before the CSAB last year. She spoke about staff development and parent involvement.
- A board member spoke about training teachers and staff to work with students that have experienced trauma. He spoke about not only training staff but supporting staff who are also dealing with trauma. He stated turnover of staff has decreased significantly.
- Ms. Howard spoke about the school's current goals. She reviewed the iReady diagnostic data showing which students are on level, one grade level behind, or two grade levels behind. She spoke about the difficulties the school is facing in math.
- Ms. Howard spoke about new approaches to parent involvement including training parents on issues such as testing.
- Ms. Reeves asked how many years they have operated. Ms. Howard stated six years.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked how the hurricane affected the school. Ms. Howard stated about 25 kids and two staff members who lost everything. She stated they were out for about 2-3 weeks.

PAUL R. BROWN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

- Mr. Quigley felt that Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy came back with a better plan and community support. He recommended that we let the school continue and bring the school back early next year as soon as academic data is available.

Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy to return to CSAB in the fall after test scores, but if there is an untimely submittal of any documentation to NC DPI going forward, they must return to the CSAB.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous Vote

Passed

Failed

Motion: Motion to Adjourn.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Mr. Quigley

Adjournment via acclamation at 3:30pm.